CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   An apparatus for transferring commands, comprising:

a scanner including a first port and a second port coupled together through a
communication bus; and

control logic associated with the communication bus, the control logic
configured to control the passage of data over the communication bus.

2.   The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a keyboard coupled to the
first port.

3.   The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a computer coupled to the second port, where the communication bus passes
commands from the keyboard directly to the computer.

4.   The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the control logic is configured to
detect the presence of commands from the keyboard.

5.   The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the control logic routes commands
from the keyboard to the computer.

1   6.   The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising keyboard enable logic

2   associated with the control logic.

1   7.   The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the keyboard enable logic instructs

2   the control logic to route commands from the keyboard to a keyboard/scanner

3   interface.

1   8.   The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a power detector coupled

2   to the communication bus, the power detector configured to detect a power signal

3   from the computer.

1   9.   The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising power supply logic

2   configured to supply power to the keyboard if the power detector fails to detect the

3   power signal from the computer.

1   10.   The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the keyboard/scanner interface is

2   configured to receive keyboard commands from the control logic and forward the

3   keyboard commands to a processor of the scanner.

1   11.   The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the keyboard commands

2   correspond to an email address.

1   12.   The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the keyboard commands

2   correspond to a facsimile address.

13. The apparatus of claim 7, further comprising a network interface module coupled to the keyboard/scanner interface, the network interface module configured to connect the scanner to an external network.

14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein a document scanned by the scanner is electronically mailed over the external network.

15. A method for communicating commands from a keyboard to a scanner, the method comprising the steps of:

connecting a scanner to a computer over a communication bus in the scanner; and

connecting a keyboard to the communication bus, where the communication bus passes commands from the keyboard directly to the computer.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of detecting whether a power signal is being transmitted from the computer to the scanner.

17. The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of supplying power to the keyboard from the scanner if the power signal from the computer is not detected in the detecting step.

18. The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of detecting, within the scanner, the presence of commands from the keyboard.

1   19.   The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of routing

2 commands from the keyboard to the computer.

1   20.   The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of routing

2 commands from the keyboard to the scanner.

1   21.   The method of claim 15, further comprising the steps of:

2   receiving keyboard commands from a scanner/keyboard interface associated

3 with the communication bus; and

4   forwarding the keyboard commands to a processor of the scanner.

1   22.   The method of claim 21, wherein the keyboard commands correspond

2 to an email address.

1   23.   The method of claim 21, wherein the keyboard commands correspond

2 to a facsimile address.

1   24.   The method of claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

2   coupling a network interface module to the keyboard/scanner interface; and

3   connecting the scanner to an external network.

1   25.   The method of claim 24, further comprising the step of electronically

2 mailing a document scanned by the scanner over the external network.